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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TC/ART UNIT 1731****PATENT APPLICATION**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ERIC MIES ET AL.

Application No.: 10/717,856

Filed: November 19, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FORMING LOW OPTICAL LOSS  
SPLICES
 )  
 : Examiner: John Hoffmann  
 )  
 : TC/Art Unit: 1731  
 )  
 :  
 )  
 : April 25, 2005

Mail Stop AF  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

a **Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2; and

**Remarks** begin on page 6.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on:

April 25, 2005

(date of transmission)

James F. Dobrow

(printed name)

(signature)